



USD 330 Mission Valley School District

Home of the Vikings

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March 13, 2020

Dear Parent(s), Guardian(s), Patron(s) & Staff:

USD 330 Mission Valley is continuing to monitor the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and review information from state and federal health experts. As this situation is being monitored, school districts across the state, including USD 330, are in the planning process for the potential impact that it may have on schools and communities. USD 330 values the health & safety of our students, staff, patrons and communities. We will work closely with federal, state, and local experts to ensure that we have a thorough and appropriate plan to protect and educate our students.

With school resuming on March 17th we each need to be vigilant and do our part in keeping our district safe not only from COVID-19 but also from other illnesses. What is known at this time is that the best way to prevent infection from COVID-19 and other viruses is to avoid exposure and follow normal health care recommendations:

- *Avoid close contact with people who are sick*
- *Cover coughs and sneezes, avoid touching your mouth/face until hands are thoroughly washed.*
- *Wash hands often with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds combined with the use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.*
- *Children and staff need to stay at home if sick and contact their health care provider.*
- *The district's current policy is for students to return to school they must be free from fever for 24hrs.*
- *Immunizations need to be up-to-date to assist with the body's immune system.*
- *Any person who has traveled, since February 25th, out-of-country or has traveled to an area "hot spot" where a confirmed case has been reported should contact their county health department.*

The Wabaunsee County Health Department carries all childhood immunizations, and can provide them to children who have KanCare/Medicaid. If you have questions regarding school immunizations please contact your families' health provider, the school, or your local county health department.

USD 330 Mission Valley	1-866-557-6686
Wabaunsee County Health Department	1-785-765-2425
Shawnee County Health Department	1-786-251-5600
Kansas Department of Health and Environment	1-785-296-1500

What USD 330 Mission Valley is doing?

- *Increase attention to cleaning/disinfecting facilities and vehicles with appropriate products.*
- *Promoting effective hand washing techniques and proper hygiene skills.*
- *Communicating with the local health department.*
- *Staying up-to-date on guidance & information from state and federal agencies.*
- *Discussing & planning of various scenarios and options.*

Clinton Lambotte--President
Jim Rudeen Jon Deters

USD 330 Board of Education
Tom Phillips Clipper Goodrich

Debbi Childers--Vice President
Tuff Stephenson

Last night the Kansas Department of Education released information for school districts. Included in the release was information pertaining to the possibility of school closures.

- If a school is required to close due to COVID-19, the requirement from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment would be to close the school for 14 calendar days.
- If a local school district decides independently (without the recommendation from county, state, or federal agencies) then schools would be required to make up all lost time by June 30, 2020.
- If a local health department in cooperation with KDHE, or the Governor, or the President requires the closure of schools, then schools will have 3 options:
 - Make up the missed school days by June 30, 2020
 - Submit a proposal to KSDE for the delivery of e-learning to be counted as seat time
 - Submit a petition to the Kansas State Board of Education and the KS Commissioner of Education to waive the legally required number of days and hours schools must be in session.

The district encourages you to stay informed with information from reliable sources such as the Center for Disease Control and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Thank you for your time and cooperation. As we navigate forward through these times, again, it is important to stay vigilant about practicing good hygiene skills and limiting exposure as much as possible. We need to focus on facts and information from medical experts and avoid promoting a sense of panic and hysteria.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact USD 330 Mission Valley Schools.

Respectfully,



William J. Clark
USD 330 Mission Valley
Superintendent/Director of Special Services

Enclosed: Coronavirus 2019 Novel (COVID-19) Information and Resources

COVID-19 GENERAL INFORMATION

A new coronavirus called 2019 Novel (new) Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was first found in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. This virus had not been found in humans before. This coronavirus can lead to fever, cough and trouble breathing or shortness of breath. The World Health Organization has declared a global health emergency, there are thousands of diagnosed cases in China and new cases being diagnosed in a number of countries including the United States.

What do we know? Since this virus is very new, health authorities continue to carefully watch how this virus spreads. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working hard to learn as much as possible about this new virus, so that we can better understand how it spreads and causes illness. The CDC considers this virus to be a serious public health concern. Based on current information the CDC recommends avoiding travel to China. Updated travel information related to 2019-nCoV can be found at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/novel-coronavirus-china>

How Does 2019 Novel (New) Coronavirus Spread? Health experts believe the virus probably spreads from animals to humans and from person to person. It's not clear yet how easily the virus spreads from person-to-person. In the United States, the risk of COVID-19 for the general public is low. Therefore, there is no need to cancel school or social events, and there is no need for students or school staff to wear surgical masks at school.

Prevention? There are currently no vaccines available to protect against this virus. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) recommends the following ways to minimize the spread of all respiratory viruses, including COVID-19

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touches objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. If you use a tissue, throw it in the trash.
- CDC recommends that travelers avoid all travel to China.

Symptoms--Information to date suggests that COVID-19 causes mild-to-moderate illness and symptoms like the flu, including fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

Are visitors from China being screened? Yes, as of February 2nd new screening protocols are conducted for individuals entering the US from China at designated airports; Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York and Atlanta.

PreK-12 schools may have students who attend school and have traveled to various areas in Asia, including China. Students should not be excluded from school or any school activities based on race, country of origin, or recent travel (or a family member's recent travel), including to any part of China. Schools may only exclude a student if a local health department informs the school that a student must comply with a quarantine order or the student is symptomatic of a communicable or infectious disease pursuant to Education Law.

This is an emerging, rapidly changing situation. For questions please contact your local department of health or the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Response hotline: 1-877-427-7317. We encourage you to keep up to date about COVID-19, its treatment and prevention by visiting the following websites:

CDC's Dedicated COVID-19 Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Kansas Department of Health and Environment-School Health: <http://www.kdheks.gov/c-f/school.html>

Kansas Directory of Local Health Departments: http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/download/health_directory.pdf

Kansas State Department of Education, Safety Specialist(s): <https://www.ksde.org/Kansas-Safe-Schools>

Harvard Health, Coronavirus Resource Center:
<https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/coronavirus-resource-center>

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